



City of Palm Coast

City Hall
160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, FL 32164

Meeting Minutes Beautification & Environmental Advisory Committee

Chairman Glenn Partelow
Vice Chair Kenneth Jones
Committee Member John Kapcar
Committee Member Joanna Salkovitz
Committee Member Jeffery Seib

Thursday, January 25, 2018

5:00 PM

City Hall Community Wing

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A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Partelow called the meeting of the January 25, 2018 Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee to order @ 5:00PM.

B. ROLL CALL

The attendees announced themselves, all BEAC Committee Members were present except Vice Chair Jones. In addition two City of Palm Coast employees were present, William Butler, Landscape Architect and Denise Bevan, City Administration Coordinator.

Present: 4 - Member Partelow, Committee Member Kapcar, Committee Member Salkovitz, and Committee Member Seib

Unexcused: 1 - Vice Chair Jones

C. MINUTES

1 [17-427](#)

MEETING MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2017 BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

A motion was made by member Seib and seconded by member Kapcar to accept the minutes as present. The minutes were approved by the following vote:

Approved: 4 - Member Partelow, Committee Member Kapcar, Committee Member Salkovitz, and Committee Member Seib

Unexcused: 1 - Vice Chair Jones

D. OLD BUSINESS

2 [17-432](#) PRESENTATION ON STORMWATER POND vs FRESHWATER POND MAINTENANCE

William Butler introduced this agenda topic along with Denise Bevan, City Administrator Coordinator. Mr. Butler gave a verbal update on his conversation with the Director of Ormond Beach and Fred Vitagliano, City of Palm Coast (COPC) Public Works Supervisor regarding the managing of mowing around the stormwater ponds.

Mr. Seib: In Ormond Beach is it (mowing) done on an as needed basis?

ANS: Mr. Butler: I didn't ask them how often they do it (mow) but I should have asked them that?

Mr. Seib: Ours (COPC) done twice per year?

ANS: Mr. Butler: Don Schrager does that twice per year, because those ditches he maintains are usually not in the public eye. But the ones that Fred does, like the ponds around I-95 and that, we have a higher level of maintenance. So he is going to be mowing more often than what they (Don Schrager's group) will be mowing.

Mr. Seib: When the mowing occurs, it includes everything. It isn't just the grass around the outer edge, it includes mowing, weed whacking of the little vegetation.

ANS: Mr. Butler: During the growing season they mow the actual grass every week. But the vegetation around the ponds they don't do that as often, they do it as needed to cut things back. So that is the one that would be in the affected area, so it is not as often.

Mr. Seib: So there is only mowing of that littoral vegetation, say the cattails and whatever?

ANS: Mr. Butler: They spray.

Mr. Seib: So once the vegetation is mowed or sprayed, I'm talking about the littoral vegetation once it is dead, is it removed or is it put back into the pond?

ANS: Mr. Butler: No, they don't put it in the pond, they rake it out. And when they mow they are taught to not blow the grass into the water, they are taught to blow it up the bank so it doesn't go into the water.

Mr. Seib discussed the history of this agenda item with regard to the timing of the mowing around the ponds.

Ms. Bevan addressed the BEAC members regarding the nature of these artificial stormwater ponds which accept run off from streets and developments vs. more stable natural systems, such as Pellicer Creek.

Ms. Sara Lockhart, 21 Marlin Dr. addressed the BEAC members regarding her observations on this topic. Her preference is that the COPC staff address a more definite schedule for mowing that would allow mother nature more of an opportunity to recover after mowing.

Ms. Lockhart: Do we know where those littoral zones are? Is it 25% around the lake being in the littoral zone?

ANS: Mr. Butler: Yeah, the code (Land Development Code) requires a certain percentage around the lake. But, largely it is not being done by the golf course because there is a caveat in the St. Johns River Water Management District which states if you provide more volume than what was required then you are exempted from doing that (referring to the littoral zones).

Mr. Seib discussed the topic of run off from roadway should not have an overall impact on wildlife.

Mr. Butler: I have one question that I didn't get an answer, if they do encounter an egg or a nest how far away from it should they stay?

ANS: Ms. Bevan: It is a species specific question, because some species go totally radical on you. Bald Eagles will abandon their nest and their young. There are some species that are more tolerant, there is a high mortality from raccoons and predators so they nest more often, trying to have a more successful offspring. But I don't think there is a magic number that fits universally.

Ms. Bevan: Would you agree?

ANS: Ms. Lockhart: Agreed.

Mr. Seib: Do you mean an area of the littoral zone if they were going to mow after June and they encountered a nest, is that what you are thinking of?

ANS: Mr. Butler: Well, my instructions to Public Works is to walk the perimeter ever time before they mow. But during that period I'm going to have them take a little extra time to look a little closer to make sure they aren't finding something.

ANS: Ms. Bevan: When a nest is encountered that they do nothing. Before they mow any part of it they consult with a professional such as myself. Then we identify what type of species is nesting and go from there.

Mr. Butler discussed that he would discuss with Public Works at his next weekly meeting the recommendation that Ms. Bevan suggested.

A motion was made by member Seib and seconded by member Kapcar to make the recommendation to adopt a mowing period initiated in January and June, in addition that there is a recommendation to follow Denise's recommendation regarding the discovery of nest by City Staff. The motion was approved by the following vote: Chair Partelow - Yes, member Kapcar - Yes, member Salkovitz - Yes, member Seib - Yes.

The Agenda Item was Received and Filed.

3 [17-433](#)

PRESENTATION ON LEHIGH TRAIL REPAIRS

Mr. Butler introduced this topic regarding the Lehigh Trail repairs, discussion ensued between the committee members.

The Agenda Item was Received and Filed.

4 [17-434](#)

PRESENTATION ON CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING EVENT

Mr. Butler shared information provided to the COPC week in review regarding this year's annual Christmas Tree Recycling event.

The Agenda Item was Received and Filed.

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

E. NEW BUSINESS

5 [17-435](#) PRESENTATION ON 2018 BIRDS OF A FEATHER FEST

Mr. Butler presented information about the upcoming Birds of a Feather Event to be held February 9-11, 2018. Mr. Butler handed to the committee members a flyer highlighting the event which is attached to these minutes.

Chair Partelow: Is this in conjunction with the new business, Wild About Birds?

ANS: Mr. Butler: They have been working with them on some donations and things, brochures. They are involved somewhat.

Mr. Butler discussed the history of Linear Natural Birding Trail involving the diversity of bird species found along this trail.

The Agenda Item was Received and Filed.

F. DISCUSSION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Seib opened a discussion regarding cell tower flashing lights. Mr. Butler had previously passed along the committee's prior recommendations regarding this topic.

Mr. Seib discussed code violations on City owned property.

Mr. Seib: Do the code folks come out if someone wants to cut a tree (down), does someone make a determination that this is a tree that can be cut, that it is a dead or decaying tree that could potentially cause damage to a house (by falling). Is that what happens?

ANS: Mr. Butler: Yes, they (code division) have an Urban Forester that is a Certified Arborist, just like Carol. So he knows how to identify diseases, impacts or hazards to trees. He is qualified to do that. If there is a hazard or a problem with the tree, there is no replacement if the site has the minimum number of trees after the removal of the tree. If however someone removes a tree without a permit then there is a replacement is always required. On a single family home I believe it is that they have to replace one two inch tree. It used to be more severe but no so much anymore. On commercials it is a total diameter replacement.

Mrs. Salkovitz: Bill, isn't it also true if you have a historic tree that its taking is considered different than a regular tree?

ANS: Mr. Butler: That is any tree that is over 36 inches in diameter. It is kind of treated like a specimen tree. However, I think on the mitigation its 80 percent of the diameter on new construction, it is 100% for a historic tree. And replacement size trees are 6 inches, if they don't have another tree that qualifies for that.

Mr. Butler addressed the members regarding the Land Development Code regarding Landscaping including the mitigation process.

Mr. Seib: Is it offense driven, is it noted somewhere and if they do it again it is more so? Or everything is all the same.

ANS: Mr. Butler: The Code Board may make it a second offense on it. But in this case, if they mitigated per the code, there is not second offense penalty to it.

Chair Partelow mentioned that he noticed a significant algae bloom on the water behind Epic Theater. Mr. Butler explained that the property there is maintained by the Town Center CDD.

Chair Partelow also discussed the construction happening on Colbert Lane (Marina Del Mar) as it pertains to the wetlands on the site. Mr. Butler explained that this development was approved when the property was part of the County and therefore the inspection must be passed on County code. Mr. Butler to discuss with the inspectors in his next meeting.

Mrs. Salkovitz: Is the County much more lack than the City?

ANS: Mr. Butler: Yes, generally they are.

Mr. Seib: Is Colbert (Lane) totally in the City?

ANS: Mr. Butler: No, not all of it

Mr. Butler informed the committee members that their terms are expiring on May 1, 2018 and he handed out the application form for them to complete.

Mr. Butler also informed the committee members about the January 23rd upcoming Ethics Training that the City is hosting.

Mr. Butler informed the committee members about Jill Kolvasky's (Landscape Architect) resignation for personal reasons.

Mr. Butler also discussed his upcoming retirement in October 2018.

Mrs. Salkovitz: Is Mike Beebe on the Planning and Land Development Regulation Board (PLDRB)?

ANS: Mr. Butler: He is no longer on the PLDRB.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Irene Schaefer, Recording Secretary

[17-436](#)

ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES